



YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

<http://exchanges.state.gov/education/citizens/students/>



Introduction

The youth exchange programs supported by the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) are committed to empowering the successor generation and establishing long-lasting ties between the United States and other countries through exchange programs and institutional partnerships. Programs focus primarily on secondary schools and promote mutual understanding, leadership development, educational transformation, and democratic ideals.

Youth Programs in Brief:

Youth Exchange and Study (YES): The YES program provides scholarships for secondary school students from countries with significant Muslim populations to spend up to one academic year in the United States. Students learn about America, leadership, and civil society. Established in 2002.

Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX): High school students from Eurasian countries are selected in national merit-based, open competitions for full scholarships to live for one academic year in the United States. FLEX participants return to a strong alumni network to complete civil society-building projects in their home countries. Established in 1992.

Global Connections and Exchange: Grants enable organizations to conduct projects that involve a combination of the following components: establishment of Internet learning centers, training of educators in alternative teaching methodologies (e.g., project-based learning), virtual exchanges in which students collaborate with their peers in the U.S. and other countries on thematic projects, and short-term exchanges of student/teacher groups. American and foreign schools may be partnered for the online work and/or the exchanges. Since 2000, grants have supported projects in the Caucasus, Southeast Europe, the Middle East/North Africa, and South, Central and East Asia. Established in 2000.

Youth Leadership Programs: Grants enable organizations to conduct projects for both high school and undergraduate-aged youth. Projects

YOUTH EXCHANGES SNAPSHOT

- 15,000 high school students from 12 Eurasian countries have studied in the U.S. under FLEX since its inception.
- The YES program, in its third year, will increase its numbers from 455 students to more than 600 high school students from the Middle East, Africa, South Asia and Southeast Asia.
- The CBYX program annually provides exchanges for 400 U.S. and German high school students through the ongoing financial support of ECA, the U.S. Congress, and the German Bundestag.
- Through the Global Connections programs, more than 30,000 teachers and students in 25 countries are trained in Internet technology and the use of online resources.
- Using the knowledge and skills learned through youth leadership programs, countless alumni initiate community service projects at home, such as volunteering in a local orphanage, organizing peer mediation workshops, or starting a small student cooperative.

build bridges of understanding on common values through themes that include leadership development, civil society, debate, conflict resolution, business internships, and technology training. Exchanges are approximately about one month in length, may include teachers, and may be reciprocal or one-way to the United States. Projects have been implemented with Indonesia, the Philippines, Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Jordan, Malaysia, Pakistan, and Tunisia, among other countries with significant Muslim populations, totaling hundreds of exchange participants each year.

Congress Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX):

Jointly funded by the U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag, the CBYX program sponsors an exchange of German and U.S. high school students, vocational school graduates, and young professionals for a one-year program of academic studies, and, for the older participants, a practical internship. Established in 1983.

American Council of Young Political Leaders

(ACYPL): The ACYPL program sponsors reciprocal, two-week study tours for delegations of young American and foreign political leaders to study the other's political systems and develop personal and institutional ties. Established in 1966.

American Serbia and Montenegro Youth Leadership Exchange:

This program provides scholarships for secondary school students from Serbia and Montenegro to spend one academic semester or year in the U.S. attending school with a focus on civil society and leadership. A total of 205 students are expected to participate between 2006 and 2008. Established in 2005.

Educational and Cultural Programs

Youth exchange programs are among 30,000 annual exchanges managed by the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA). Other ECA exchange programs include the Fulbright Program and the International Visitor Program. Through the range of academic and professional exchanges, the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs seeks to increase mutual understanding between the United States and other countries.

